

THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An integrated software system for intellectual property management programmed to perform the following functions:
 - 5 (a) accept input relating to one or more of the following areas: IP mapping-tracking; IP strategy-tracking; IP generation-tracking; IP documentation-tracking; IP review board-tracking; and IP application-tracking;
 - (b) store the input in one or more data files;
 - (c) provide output indicative of the stored data.
- 10 2. The system of claim 1 comprising an IP mapping-tracking component programmed to track opportunity areas in which inventions are desired.
3. The system of claim 1 comprising an IP mapping-tracking component programmed to:
 - 15 (a) utilize input words and phrases descriptive of a market area or technology areas;
 - (b) search databases, such as patent and literature databases; and
 - (c) provide an output which characterizes inventive and research activity in the area.
4. The system of claim 1 comprising an IP strategy-tracking component programmed to track invention strategy.
5. The system of claim 1 comprising an IP strategy-tracking component, which:
 - 20 (a) uses product and technology output from an IP mapping method as input; and
 - (b) produces output comprising problems and elements for use as input in an IP generation component.
6. The system of claim 1 comprising an IP generation-tracking component programmed to track creation of new inventions.

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7. The system of claim 1 comprising an IP generation-tracking component programmed to provide output suitable for use as input into an IP documentation component.
8. The system of claim 1 comprising an IP documentation-tracking component programmed to track invention documentation.
- 5 9. The system of claim 1 comprising an IP review board-tracking component programmed to track the schedule and results of an invention review board.
10. The system of claim 1 comprising an IP application filing-tracking component programmed to track patent application filing data and optionally tracks patent prosecution data.
11. The system of claim 1 comprising an IP application filing-tracking component programmed to:
 - (a) capture output from an IP generation method component; and
 - (b) yield invention disclosure output suitable for use as input in an IP review board-tracking component of the invention.
12. The system of claim 1 comprising an IP review board-tracking component programmed to accept input assigning a disposition to an invention tracked by the system.
13. The system of claim 1 wherein the input includes data selected from the group consisting of:
invention identification number; technology area; product area; company name; company site; invention title; inventor; manager of inventor; bar date; comments; technology name; product name; problem; elements/methods; IP scanning session name; IP scanning session date; IOD™ session name; IOD™ session date; pre-existing invention; client tracking number; company disclosure number; disclosure writer; IP manager; additional inventorship information; inventor interview date; idea withdrawal date; first draft completion date; inventor's draft review date; disclosure submission date; invention review date; invention review attorney; disclosure rating; search sent date; search received date; attorney review complete date; final disposition; patent docket number; patent docket creation date; docket attorney; docket delivery date; application filing date; notice of allowance date; patent issued date; date of expiration of patent term; docket closure date; and license value.
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